



Anoka Conservation District

Conservation Quarterly

Shown above, Pearly Everlasting is the harbinger of winter.

16015 Central Ave. NE #103 Ham Lake, MN 55304

Ph: (763) 434-2030 Fax: (763) 434-2094 Email: "first name"."last name"@anokaswcd.org

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POINTS OF INTEREST

- * **Steve Standlund of Dirtworks Inc. named 2002 Outstanding Conservationist for drastically changing a development to preserve rare ecosystem.**
- * **Tree Order Form Inside**
- * **ACD web site to be launched late November.**

Candidate Views

By: Chris Lord
District Manager

This issue is dedicated to those running for state elected offices. As part of ACD's goal to build ever stronger relationships with elected officials, the Board of Supervisors developed three questions for all candidates running for state offices in Anoka County. The ques-

tions were mailed out in late August. The responses that we got were very interesting and are included in the following pages.

Exercise the freedom so many have given their lives for and vote on November 5.

Supervisor's Corner:

By:
Sean Sullivan

The DNR Metro Greenways program is very important to preserving the quality natural resources that Anoka County has to offer. The program helps communities define important aspects of habitat and natural communities found within their boundaries and encourages communities to work together to accomplish common goals.

The first project was done in the Cedar Creek Corridor. It led to much discussion on how communities can maintain green space and create natural hubs and corridors for wildlife. Participation from all cities in the project area has made this effort very worthwhile. Early identification of areas of environmental significance enables cities to plan development in

a way that preserves them. Support by the communities involved to this point has been excellent and hopefully it will continue in the future.

Recently, an area in Ramsey was designated as a Greenway corridor opportunity. The project is being done in correlation with the Ramsey regional trail system. Open space is used as a focal point in new developments and trail corridors, bringing people closer to wildlife. All you need to do is hike, bike or walk on the trail in the future and you will experience the beauty that Anoka County has to offer. These initiatives by local governments partnered with the Anoka Conservation District,

DNR and other units of government will only enhance and improve the resources currently enjoyed.

It is very important to preserve what you have because some resources are non-renewable. The DNR Greenways program is a tool that cities have been given to assist their planning and to identify areas that should be protected. The visioning that the planning process brings, along with the information gathered in Greenways studies, make the destination clear. The GIS information generated from the studies is invaluable when it come to future planning. Look around and enjoy the area you live in and remember that we at the Anoka Conservation District, and cities, are doing our best to maintain it and enhance it for you and your children. You as citizens of the community need to do your part too. Everybody can help by using the tree order form in the newsletter and planting some trees next year.

Question 1 What are the key conservation and natural resource issues in your area?

Question 2 What are the conservation needs that you would like to see addressed by the Anoka Soil and Water Conservation District?

Question 3 Please explain why you are in favor of or opposed to special purpose districts being granted taxing authority.

Candidates for Governor

Lawrence Aeshliman

Question 1: I believe we need to be good stewards of Earth resources. Extreme conservation on the one hand and extreme development on the other hand are both bad.

Question 2: Submitted campaign literature of which none specifically addresses conservation needs.

Question 3: No one should be granted taxing authority except those who are elected to make those decisions.

Tim Pawlenty

Because I seek a statewide office, I am answering your three questions, which focused on specific local issues, with one response.

Like many other Minnesotans, my personal connection to our natural resources began as a child with visits "up North," in my case to an uncle's rustic cabin. It's a heritage that I now have the pleasure of sharing with my own children, and that I will fight to preserve.

Through my leadership role on Eagan's City Council and Planning Commission, I know that all levels of government, as well as all sectors of the economy, from producers to consumers, have roles to play in the stewardship of Minnesota's bountiful natural resources.

In recent years, I have successfully led the House of Representatives as the Majority Leader in passing several important initiatives to preserve our natural resources and protect the environment. I helped author and enact legislation to obtain conservation easements in the Minnesota River Valley because the state needs to make investments that protect or store water and soil quality, wetlands, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Other environmental measures I've supported include clean water quality monitoring, a ban on phosphorus, biodiesel production, and "blue waters" incentives to preserve shore land. This last measure was modeled on the successful "green acres" initiative and is intended to prevent tax policy from inadvertently fueling a drive to over-develop.

We need a coordinated and energetic policy on conservation. That can only be accomplished by setting priorities and holding government accountable through the tough,

principled leadership I will bring to the office of Governor. I commend the Anoka Conservation District on its mission, and I look forward to working together.

Tim Penny

Question 1: I believe the State of Minnesota needs to create a dedicated funding source so that we can protect our valuable natural resources. As Governor, I will be a strong promoter of conservation programs like the Reinvest in Minnesota program and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement program. These make common sense and should be expanded.

Question 2: It is my hope that the Anoka Soil and Water Conservation District will continue to partner with the state on conservation programs that work.

Question 3: I have no strong opinion on this issue, and I am open to discussing this with the Anoka Conservation District.

Candidates for State Senator District 52

Jane Krenz

Ms. Krenz's mail was delayed and was unable to complete survey in allotted time frame.

Candidates for State Representative District 47B

Melissa Hortman

Question 1

- Protecting water in lakes, rivers and streams from excess mercury
- Reducing reliance on nuclear energy so that we can close nuclear power plants and quit producing nuclear waste

Question 2: Proper management of water resources by enforcement of setback laws and other environmental regulations

Question 3: I have insufficient information to render an opinion on this issue.

Stephanie Olsen

Advised she would not be submitting a response. "I have made the decision not to answer questionnaires. ... When combined with balancing this monumental task with my hectic work schedule, family time, civic volun-

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teer commitments, and other life obligations, there is not enough time left in the day to sort through the dozens of surveys and questionnaires that arrive at my door daily."

Candidate for State Rep District 48A

Steve Voss

Question 1

- Preservation and protection of the remaining sensitive lands and waters in the county
- Preserve open space areas through promotion of innovative development approaches
- Improve water quality through reduced runoff, correction of failing septic systems, and better land management practices

Question 2: Continue your work on identifying sensitive areas and working with local governments to increase their awareness of these issues and encourage protection through meaningful conservation ordinances

Question 3

Opposition - We don't need another level of taxation for our area. Funding may be better served through a combination of county, state and local authorities.

Support -

- Would raise awareness to taxpayers
- Would increase the accountability to the taxpayers
- Would provide a more stable source of funding that would be less likely to be affected by local politics

Candidates for State Representative District 48B

Jim Abeler

Question 1

- Wetland preservation
- Groundwater protection
- Oak wilt and other tree diseases
- Mosquito habitat
- Balancing wildlife habitat, open space and development

Question 2

- Habitat protection

- Reducing spread of tree diseases
- West Nile virus issues

Question 3: Generally favor. As the officials are duly elected to perform a series of important tasks, they ought to have the ability to generate the resources to do those tasks.

Betsy O'Berry

Question 1: One of the key conservation and natural resource issues in our area is maintaining a clean, healthy water supply. Specifically, we need to make sure that development does not stress, damage, or deplete our aquifers by taking up the wetlands and catch basins that recharge them or by drawing out more water than can be replenished. We must also remain vigilant in monitoring water quality in our lakes, rivers and streams.

Question 2: The Anoka Soil and Water Conservation District needs to continue their fine job of working with local government and private landowners to protect our land and water resources. We need to continue our programs to monitor water supplies for changes in quantity and quality, and helping with river bank stabilization. In particular, I hope that we can continue our school-based programs to monitor rivers and streams to increase awareness and interest in our water resources.

Question 3: I have mixed feelings about special purpose districts being granted taxing authority. Keeping track of the actions of multiple taxing authorities is confusing to taxpayers trying to understand changes in their property tax statements. However, I would consider legislation that grants them limited levy authority in cases where the board members are elected and therefore, directly accountable to the public for their actions, as is true in the case of the Anoka County Soil and Water Supervisors. Currently, the Anoka Conservation District receives approximately 60% of its funding from the county. The remaining 40% comes from real estate transfer taxes, grants and fees for services. Taxpayers deserve to know clearly how and where their tax dollars are being spent.

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Candidate for State Rep District 49B

Kathy Tingelstad

Question 1

- Wetland protection
- Preventing loss of habitat from housing developments
- Groundwater protection
- Preventing the spread of oak wilt

Question 2

- Wetland protection
- Water conservation
- Tree plantings

Question 3: In favor - I would allow the district to do what's essential for the district. At the same time, since the organization is represented by elected officials, it allows for public accountability.

Winter is the time for planning so we can spring into action in April. We have the expertise to develop plans for wildlife habitat plantings, lakeshore restoration, streambank restoration and raingarden installation. We also have some funds to get them installed. Contact us now so we can have a plan and funding ready to go by Spring.

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